

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

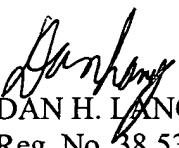
Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, and 25-26 have been examined and rejected. Claims 8, 16, and 24 have been deemed to be directed toward allowable subject matter. The present response cancels claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, and 24-26 without prejudice, and amends claims 1, 6-7, 9, 14-15, 17, and 22-23. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-12, 14-15, 17-20, and 22-23 remain pending. Entry of the present amendment after final, reconsideration, and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

To expedite prosecution, the independent claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 8, 16, and 24. Accordingly, claims 1, 9, and 17 should now be in condition for allowance. The remaining pending claims, being dependent on claims 1, 9, and 17 should also be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-8694.

Respectfully submitted,


DAN H. LANG
Reg. No. 38,531

RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP
12930 Saratoga Ave., Suite D1
Saratoga, CA 95070
Tel: 408-446-8690
Fax: 408-446-8691